NATION

Manipur lifts internet suspension from valley dists

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BUSINESS

UPI transaction limit now increased to ₹5 lakh

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SPORTS

Indian men crush Azerbaijan; Women beat Kazakhstan

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 | TUESDAY | BENGALURU | 12 RABI'L, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 236 | Pages: 8

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Trump survives 2nd murder attempt with no bloodshed

'I am proud to be an American & I will never surrender'

WASHINGTON, 16 SEPT

Former US president Donald Trump is safe after he escaped an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in Florida, a second bid on his life in two months.

The incident took place on Sunday at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Secret Service agents "opened fire on a gunman located near the property line" of Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Rafael Barros, the special agent in charge in Miami, said during a news conference, adding that the agency was "unsure whether the individual," who is in custody, "was able to take a shot at our agents." According to Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, a Secret Service agent spotted the suspect with a rifle sticking through the fence of the golf course and immediately fired at the man before he fled the scene.

Republican presidential nominee Trump, 78, was 300 to 500 yards away from the suspect, Bradshaw said.

This was the second attempt on Trump's life in two months. In July, a life-threatening attack on Trump during his rally in Pennsylvania shocked the entire nation. He injured his right ear after the young shooter fired multiple shots at him at the campaign rally.In a message to his supporters, Trump said he is safe.

"There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumours start spiralling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL! Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!" said the former president. Trump thanked Secret Service for keeping him safe after the second assassination attempt

"THE JOB DONE WAS OUTSTANDING. I AM VERY PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!". —*PTI*

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The incident took place on Sunday at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida ***PHOTO: X/ @CoastRocket***

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Range:** 300 to 500 yards (appx)
- **Gun used:** AK-47 with 7mm bullets
- **When he was attacked before:** 13 July
- **Where it happened:** Trump International Golf Club

Who is Ryan Routh?

Ryan Wesley Routh has been identified by US media as a suspect following the apparent assassination attempt on US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Florida. Routh, 58, is from North Carolina. His known activity paints a mixed picture of his politics, and he appears to have felt strongly about Ukraine's war effort. He has also had a number of legal issues. Routh has a lengthy criminal record.

PHOTO: PTI

A delegation of junior doctors board a bus from their dharna site near Swasthya Bhawan for meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at her Kalighat residence, in Kolkata, on Monday ***PHOTO: PTI***

In a final attempt, Didi meets docs

KOLKATA, 16 SEPT

After two failed attempts at talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the agitating junior doctors held a two-hour discussion with her at her Kalighat residence on Monday evening.

Ahead of the meeting the state government had described it as a "fifth and final invitation for talks".

Around 30 medics arrived at Banerjee's residence at 6.20pm. The meeting, which was originally scheduled at 5pm, began around 7pm and is still continuing.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue got stuck due to the state government's rejection of the doctors' demand for live-streaming and video recordings of the meeting.

The agitating medics later agreed to a compromise, asking to record the minutes of the meeting and receive a signed copy.

The state government also allowed the two stenographers inside the venue to record the minutes of the meeting. Meanwhile,

The Supreme Court is likely to hear on Tuesday a case it has initiated on its own following the rape and murder of a resident doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The hearing assumes significance as resident doctors continue their strike despite the apex court's directive to them to resume work by 5pm on 10 September to avoid punitive action by the state government which had claimed that their absence had led to the death of 23 patients till 9 September. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

SALAR 360

Cow vigilantism, hate crimes & a trail of fear

In our special 360 edition, Salar News recalls some of the hate crimes & lynching cases after Lok Sabha poll results were announced in June. This trend of violence has gained momentum in recent years, with the proliferation of social media and the spread of fake news.

>>>More on Page 5

Sensex rebounds nearly 100 pts to hit lifetime high

MUMBAI, 16 SEPT

Equity benchmark index Sensex rebounded nearly 100 points to hit a lifetime closing high on Monday, while the broader Nifty ended just shy of its record peak, propelled by bargain hunting in energy, utility and banking stocks amid sustained foreign fund inflows. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intra-day high of 83,184.34. The NSE Nifty rose 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75, over 5 points lower than its previous record. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new high. —*PTI*

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India's Sabyasachi, Gaurav shine at Emmys this year

LOS ANGELES, 16 SEPT

Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Gaurav Gupta were some of the Indian designers who made their presence felt at the 2024 Emmy Awards. Actor Laura Dern, who starred in and executive produced the Apple TV+ period television series "Palm Royale", wore statement jewellery at Sunday's ceremony in Los Angeles' Peacock Theatre. The historical epic, based on the 1975 novel, picked up four awards during the evening, including Emmys for lead stars Hiroyuki Sanada and Anna Sawai, the first Japanese actors to win their respective awards. —*AP/ Guardian*

>>>More on Page 6

MODI 3.0

Prime Minister Narendra Modil rides on the metro after inaugurating Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, in Ahmedabad, on Monday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Addressed every sectors' need in 1st 100 days: PM

GANDHINAGAR, 16 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his government in the first 100 days of its third term had tried to address every sector and factor for rapid progress of the country.

Addressing the 4th edition of Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2024) in Gandhinagar, he said not just Indians but the entire world feels India is the best bet for the 21st century.

"In the first 100 days (of the Union government's third term) you can witness our priorities, speed and scale. We have tried to address every sector and factor which are required for rapid progress of the country," the PM said.

India is preparing the base for development for the next 1000 years and the focus is not just to reach the top but to sustain the rank, Modi asserted. "For us green future and net zero are not just fancy words. These are requirements of the country and committed to achieve it. *PTI*

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CONG SLAMS PM, SAYS RUNNING 'U-TURN' GOVT

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

With Modi 3.0 completing 100 days, Congress on Monday claimed that Narendra Modi in his third term had proven to be a "weak" prime minister who was dependent on crutches and setting new records for U-turns.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the past 100 days had weighed heavily on the nation's farmers, youth, women, infrastructure, Railways, and overall peace. These hundred days have proven that Modi has neither a solution nor a vision for the country's problems, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters. Modi's "habit" of turning a blind eye to issues and running away from challenges continues to persist, she claimed. —*PTI*

Vande Metro now 'Namo Bharat Rail'

Railway Ministry has renamed the Bhuj-Ahmedabad Vande Metro to Namo Bharat Rapid Rail hours before its inaugural run on Monday, according to a Spokesperson. The inaugural run, started around 4.30pm from Bhuj, had locals, students and BJP workers as passengers. While other metros cover only short distances, Namo Bharat trains will connect heart of Ahmedabad with peripheral cities. —*PTI*

India to face China in ACT Championships final

HULUNBUIR, 16 SEPT

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final in Hulunbuir, China, on Monday. India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarmanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from the stick of Yang Jihun (33rd). India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final. India beat China 3-0 in a league stage game. Earlier in the day, China defeated Pakistan 2-0 via shoot-out in the first semi-final. —*PTI*

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PHOTO: X/@THEHOCKEYINDIA

MILAD-UN-NABI

Muslims take part in a procession on Milad-Un-Nabi at Tannery Road in Bengaluru on Monday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Congress releases manifesto for J&K Assembly polls

SRINAGAR, 16 SEPT

Congress on Monday released its manifesto for the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, promising a slew of welfare measures for farmers, women and the youth.

The highlight of the manifesto -- Haath Badlega Halaat -- is insurance for all crops against natural calamities and a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 72 per kilogram for apple.

The manifesto was released by AICC chief spokesperson Pawan Khera and PCC president Tariq Hameed Karra at the party office here. "We will provide an additional financial support of Rs 4,000 for landless, tenant, and land-owning farming households per year. We will also arrange 99-year leases to landless farmers cultivating state land," Khera said.

He said a Rs 2,500-crore fund will be set up for all district-level irrigation projects to ensure 100 per cent irrigation for farmers in Jammu and Kashmir.

For the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, the party promised an unemployment allowance of up to Rs 3,500 per month for one year to qualified youths.

The party promised to fill one lakh vacant government posts by issuing a job calendar within 30 days.

Khera said Jammu and Kashmir's "heart has been wounded" and time has come to heal these wounds.

"The long night has ended and a new dawn is upon us. Haath badlega Jammu aur Kashmir ke haalaat." he said.

Khera repeated the poll promises made by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during his visit to the Union Territory last week. "As far as Article 370 is concerned, our stand is clear and reflected in the CWC resolution on the issue," he said. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

- Highlight of manifesto called 'Haath Badlega Halaat', is insurance for all crops against calamities

TO TACKLE SANDALWOOD EXPLOITATION

K'taka panel seeks POSH plan in 15 days

BENGALURU, 16 SEPT

Karnataka State Women's Commission on Monday asked a Kannada film chamber to come up with an action plan for putting together a committee against sexual harassment or give reasons why it is not possible to do that.

Director of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) NM Suresh and filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh, who attended a meeting in this connection, confirmed the commission's direction to the chamber.

In the meeting convened by KFCC with women artistes, as directed by the state Women's Commission a few days ago, the former was given 15 days to come up with an action plan for putting together a POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace) committee or give reasons why it is not possible to do that.

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

"It is a small step in the battle for justice to women in the film industry. And today it really felt like we were in a battle even for this small gain," said Lankesh president of Film Industry for Rights & Equality (FIRE). She was present in the meeting.

Incidentally, FIRE set the ball rolling in Kannada film industry when on 4 September, it managed to get 153 artistes to undersign a petition to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, demanding a committee on the lines of the Justice K Hema Committee, whose report revealed instances of abuse and harassment of women professionals in Malayalam cinema, leading to outcry.

According to Lankesh, it has also decided to conduct a survey among women in the industry, offering them a chance to come out with their problems anonymously, if they so wish so.

During the meeting, the Women's Commission presented a 17-point agenda to tackle the sexual and other exploitation of women in the industry. Lankesh said so far when women had come forward, they were either belittled or asked to compromise, thus dissuading others.

"Without even a helpline number, women or the workers, who are also exploited, had nowhere to go," Lankesh added. Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women Nagalakshmi Chowdhary could not be reached. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Activist accuses BJP's Vijayendra of obtaining MUDA site

MYSURU, 16 SEPT

Questioning the moral right of BJP chief BY Vijayendra, activist KS Shivaramu, a close aide to CM Siddaramaiah, on Monday claimed he has obtained a MUDA site in a benami name. Speaking to reporters at a press conference held he said, "He has got a site registered in his follower LR Mahadevaswamy's wife name Sowmy Mahadevaswamy. A 50 X80 measurement of site was allotted to Sowmya in Saraswathipuram, a posh area. The then MUDA commissioner DB Natesh, who is close to Vijayendra, allotted the site after taking Rs 5.50 lakh, but this site was worth Rs 7 crore in the market. In another case of irregularities, Shivaramu accused that Natesh had allotted a 12,057 feet site to its original owner under a 50:50 scheme after receiving an application from them for the land 50 years ago. *—Salar News*

RSS protests against cops entering office with shoes

MYSURU, 16 SEPT

Right-wing activists protested in front of Pandavapura police station in Mandya district on Sunday night accusing Deputy Superintendent of Police and Circle Inspector of entering an RSS office in the town wearing shoes. The police officials had entered the RSS office in connection with Nagamangala violence to arrest some suspects who allegedly sought protection in the office The activists said they considered the RSS office as their temple and they have high respect for the organisation. They sought Superintendent of Police to initiate action against the two officials and demanded that the probe into the Nagamangala violence be handed over to National Investigation Agency. *—Salar News*

10 out of 72 short films selected for Dasara film festival

MYSURU, 16 SEPT

A panel of five jurists reviewed and selected best short films that will be screened at INOX theatre for upcoming Dasara Mysuru film festival 2024 on Monday. Dasara film festival 2024, sub-committee has received 72 short films entries during this year including 63 related to Kannada, one Kodava and Lambani, four Tamil short films and two silent short films. Among them, the panel of jurists will select 10 to 20 best short films that spread a social message for screening during this year's film festival. Theatre and film personalities Aravind Jhadhav, film director Janardhan, head of the department of journalism and mass communication Prof Swapna MS, and other artistes arrived as jurists. *—Salar News*

'Hindus must unite to fight against Jihadi forces'

MYSURU, 16 SEPT

Rashtra Rakshana Pade State Unit President Punith Kerehalli on Monday called upon Hindus to be united setting aside their caste affiliations to fight against Jihadi forces as they are now posing a threat to hold peaceful Ganesha idol immersion procession across the State. Speaking at the installation of new office-bearers of Rashtra Rakshana Pade at Sri Rama Mandir in Krishnamurthypuram here, he said stone pelting and violence were reported during Ganesha idol immersion procession in the State. People of Jihadist mindset attempted to prevent such a procession of Hindus by creating violence and creating a sense of fearful atmosphere. *—Salar News*

Tension prevails in Dakshina Kannada

Stones pelted on place of worship; 6 arrested & situation under control, say police

MANGALURU, 16 SEPT

Tension prevailed in Katipalla town and Bantwal Cross (BC) road in communally-sensitive Dakshina Kannada district after an alleged incident of stone-pelting on a place of worship and gathering of a large number of people after exchange of provocative statements on the eve of Milad-Un-Nabi, police said on Monday.

Window panes of a place of worship were shattered in the stone-pelting incident at Katipalla in Mangaluru taluk on Sunday night following which six persons were arrested.

"Due to quick action, the situation was brought under control and no untoward incidents were reported in the area," police officials said, adding, a heavy police deployment has been put in place.

In Bantwal taluk's BC road, abutting National Highway 75, tension prevailed on Monday following an exchange of provocative statements between two groups on social media platforms leading to a huge gathering of people.

The people, including from VHP and Bajrang Dal, converged in the area following an alleged voice message of former President of Bantwal Town Municipal Council Mohammed Sharief "challenging" VHP leader Sharan Pumpwell to "face them during the Milad-Un-Nabi procession," officials said.

A kid participates in a procession on Milad-Un-Nabi, at Tannery Road in Bengaluru on Monday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Four cases have been registered in connection with the incidents, police said.

According to police, the police have registered cases against Mohammed Sharief and Mohammad Hasainar, a councilor of the Bantwal Town Municipal council.

The police have also registered two cases against Sharan Pumpwell and Puneet Attavar (from Bajrang Dal).

Slogans were raised against Mohammed Sharif, and Mohammad Hasainar, by the gathering.

"This is a victory for Hindutva forces, let not anybody in the future challenge us and still hope to get away with it. We are united and have taken on any challenges thrown at us." Meanwhile, Muslim youths took out a motorcycle rally on BC Road as a part of the Milad-Un-Nabi celebrations. This happened just after the Bajrang Dal and other Hindutva outfits left the area after three hours of demonstration in the morning. *—PTI*

Milad-Un-Nabi processions cause traffic snarls in City

BENGALURU, 16 SEPT

Huge traffic jams were witnessed across the City on Monday as the Milad-Un-Nabi processions winded and a huge gathering was held at YMCA ground on Nrupathunga Road later in the evening. However no untoward incident was reported from any part of the City.

Milad-Un-Nabi processions were held at RT Nagar, DJ Halli, Shivajinagar, Tannery Road, Davis Road, Richards Town, Frazer Town, Banashankari, Jayanagar, Goripalaya, City Market, Kalasipalya, JC Road, Chamrajpet, Tilak Nagar and culminated at YMCA grounds. Traffic moved at snail's pace from JC Nagar Dargah to Shivajinagar Cantonment, Yelahanka Old Town Mosque, Old Bus Stand to Sannamanikere, Bellahalli Cross to Nagawara Signal, Rajagopalnagar Main Road to Peenya 2nd Stage.

The City traffic police had laid down restrictions to enable smooth journey for the commuters. Buses, auto rickshaws were stranded at Frazer Town as the procession made its way to the YMCA grounds. Police had beefed up security across the City and a posse of policemen accompanied every procession. Special prayers were held in mosques in the evening.

Muslims take part in a procession on Milad-Un-Nabi, at Tannery Road in Bengaluru on Monday **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Taking precautions in the wake of the communal clashes at Nagamangala in Mandya district, the City police had issued separate guidelines on Monday banning the use of DJs and shouting in front of places of worship.

—Salar News

Violence: BJP team visits Nagamangala

MYSURU/ NAGAMANGALA, 16 SEPT

A BJP fact-finding committee led by CN Ashwath Narayan visited the site of the violence near Nagamangala along with other BJP leaders and officials.

Narayan, the Chairman of the fact-finding committee, blamed the Congress government for what he described as 'appeasement politics.'

Speaking about the incident, he said, "The Congress government has failed to maintain law and order. They are not clear, they are divisive, and they aim to divide society along communal lines for vote bank politics. These incidents keep happening repeatedly."

Narayan stressed that innocent people affected by the violence should be compensated and that the real culprits should be punished. "We want to ensure that innocent people are not affected.Those behind the entire incident should be exposed. What we are looking for is the nexus - the connections behind this violence. We want to bring out all the facts by talking to eyewitnesses and the affected people", the BJP leader added.

BJP leader, Narayana Gowda, who is also a member of the fact-finding committee said, "We suspect this is being done with Congress's involvement. Petrol bombs are being prepared, and everything is being coordinated with Congress workers." Narayan said that his fact finding committee would submit the report. *—Salar News with ANI*

Hand over the case to NIA: Oppn leader R Ashoka

BENGALURU, 16 SEPT

R Ashoka **PHOTO: FB**

Leader of Opposition, R Ashoka, has urged the Karnataka government to transfer the investigation of recent communal riots in Nagamangala and Mangaluru to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). In Chikkamagaluru, the row erupted after a group of people were riding a motorcycle with a Palestinian flag on Sunday. Ashoka expressed concerns about the role of certain Muslim groups in these incidents, questioning how they managed to access petrol bombs and if they were being sheltered in mosques. He claimed this reflects Congress' bias and alleged that Muslim organisations and extremist groups have been emboldened since Congress' time and accused them of appeasement politics. *—Salar News*

Vokkaliga MLAs seek action against BJP MLA

BENGALURU, 16 SEPT

A delegation of Congress ministers and MLAs belonging to Vokkaliga community on Monday met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and requested for strict action against BJP MLA N Munirathna, who has been arrested on various charges, including using casteist slurs on a former corporator.

The delegation led by Ministers N Cheluvarayaswamy and MC Sudhakar, met Siddaramaiah at his residence.

Munirathna, a former minister, was arrested on Saturday evening after two cases were registered against him, and he is currently in police custody.

"The situation is such that not only our Vokkaliga community, but the entire as such should boycott him (Munirathna). Our government has already taken action against him by arresting him in accordance with law and he was produced before court," Cheluvarayaswamy said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said, "when a common man commits such a mistake, action is taken, but when a public representative does it -- we have urged the CM that much stricter action should be taken, by gathering further information."

Also noting that the delegation has demanded that an investigation should be done by agencies like Lokayukta or Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the case, the minister said, the chief minister has said that it will be looked into.

He also hit out at BJP leaders for alleging the arrest was made without notice and vendetta politics. *—PTI*

Cabinet meet to be held in Kalaburagi on 17 Sept

KALABURAGI, 16 SEPT

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said the State cabinet will meet on 17 September to discuss the development of Kalyana Karnataka region, and decisions are likely to be taken regarding a separate secretariat and industrial policy for the region.

The cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi would also coincide with 'Kalyana Karnataka Utsava' celebrated to mark the liberation of the region from the Nizam's rule, and the celebrations to mark 10 years of Article 371(J) of the Constitution under which the region got special status.

"We may not be able to fulfill all the expectations, but we will certainly try to give solutions to a few important issues. Regarding what was mentioned in the budget and other important issues, we will discuss and decide in the cabinet tomorrow," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters, CM said a subject on employment issues in the region, is also expected to come up before the cabinet.

"There has been a demand for a separate secretariat for the Kalyana Karnataka region for a long time now, we will try to do it," he said in response to a question.

Kalaburagi is considered as the capital of the 'Kalyana Karnataka' or the Hyderabad Karnataka region as it was earlier known. These districts that were under the erstwhile rule of Nizams of Hyderabad are among the backward regions in the state.

The region comprising Bidar, Ballari, Vijayanagara, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir, enjoys special status under the Constitution (Article 371(J)) owing to its backwardness. *—PTI*

TURNING A BLIND EYE

Ganesha idols immersed at a tank in Ulsoor Lake, Bengaluru, are yet to be cleared **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

CAN DEMOCRACY BE SAVED THROUGH HUMAN CHAIN?: HDK

BENGALURU, 16 SEPT

JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Monday took a dig at Congress government in Karnataka for holding a massive human chain in the name of democracy, while questioning the delay over holding the polls to local bodies, which are "fundamental pillars of democracy".

Noting that CM Siddaramaiah has been in power for a year and four months he said, "Your (CM/ govt) democracy and people-oriented approach seem only to shine in advertisements! Your actions are more about propaganda than actual governance."

"Can democracy be preserved through the human chain? Is the misuse of taxpayers money an embellishment for democracy?" he further questioned. *—PTI*

NOT SO FUN BIKE RIDE

6 minors held for carrying Palestinian flag

CHIKKAMAGALURU, 16 SEPT

Six minors were apprehended after a video of them allegedly riding two-wheelers holding Palestinian flag on Dantaramakki road in Chikkamagaluru town surfaced on social media, police said on Monday.

Three of them were on a two-wheeler and one of the pillion riders, a 17-year-old boy, was allegedly waving a Palestinian flag around 1pm on Sunday while three of their friends followed them on another bike, according to police. They also shouted slogans on 'free Palestine'.

Chikkamagaluru City Police "have registered a case under sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including sections for disturbing communal harmony. Both the vehicles have been impounded along with the flag," a police officer said.

During interrogation, the boys said they had watched some videos of a procession in Uttar Pradesh in which people were seen carrying Palestinian flags and they wanted to make a similar reel on Instagram. The minors were quizzed on how they got the Palestinian flag and if they acted on their own or were asked to do so by someone else.

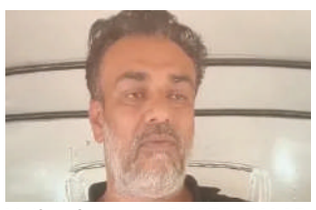
A police team, headed by an Inspector, has been formed to investigate the incident. Police have beefed up security throughout the day as Milad-Un-Nabi processions were passing through arterial roads in Chikkamagaluru city.

Earlier in the day, former BJP national general secretary and MLC CT Ravi alleged that without permission a rally was held in Chikkamagaluru on Sunday in more than 20 two-wheelers and one four-wheeler holding a Palestine flag. "Some influential people tried to influence police in favour of those involved. More than 200 people came in front of the police station; an explanation was sought and they were let go... I urged police to conduct a detailed probe and destroy the network behind them. The incident should not be taken lightly." *—Salar News, PTI*

The minors shouted slogans on 'free Palestine' **PHOTO: SALAR**

No intention to slap the woman, says auto driver

BENGALURU, 16 SEPT



Muthuraj **PHOTO: SALAR**

Bengaluru autorickshaw driver Muthuraj who was arrested last week for abusing a woman passenger recently said that he had no intention to slap the woman but tried to grab her phone to stop her from calling the police.

In an interview with YouTube channel Auto Ratha Saradhi, Muthuraj said, "I agree that grabbing her phone was a mistake, but I did not slap her as she has claimed in the video. My intention was to stop her from calling the authorities."

He said has been banned from all aggregator apps like Ola and Uber and has received threatening calls after the incident. "After the incident, all aggregator apps blocked my account, and I received threats from unknown callers. Although I regret my actions and am facing legal issues, people should understand the challenges auto drivers' face, particularly when they fail to meet their daily targets," he said and apologised for his actions. Muthuraj thanked those who helped cover his legal expenses. "I am thankful to those who provided financial support during this time.

—Salar News

Drones banned during Murmu's visit to Indore

INDORE, 16 SEPT

The police have banned the flying of drones, paragliders and hot air balloons in certain areas in Madhya Pradesh's Indore during President Droupadi Murmu's two-day visit starting 18 September, an official said on Monday. Drones, paragliders, hot air balloons and other items are banned in the 3km radius of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport, MG Road, Residency Kothi and Bhanwarkuan intersection in the city, the official said. The ban will be in force from 17 to 19 September, and any violation will invite legal action, he said, adding that commercial flights are exempt. Murmu will hold discussions with traditional weavers at the state government's "Mrignayani Emporium". She will visit the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain and attend the diamond jubilee convocation of Indore's Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya on 19 September. *—PTI*

Will give Rs 11L for chopping Rahul's tongue: Sena MLA

MUMBAI, 16 SEPT

In a controversial statement, Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad has announced that he will give Rs 11 lakh to anyone chopping off Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tongue for his remarks on scrapping the reservation system. BJP is a constituent of the Shiv Sena-led government in the state. "While he was abroad, Gandhi said that he wants to finish off the reservation system in India. This has exposed the true face of Congress," Gaikwad told reporters. "During his recent US visit, Rahul Gandhi talked about ending reservations. It shows the mindset that is inherently opposed to reservations. I will reward anyone who cuts off Rahul Gandhi's tongue with Rs 11 lakh," Gaikwad said. The Congress had defeated Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar in elections, he added. *—PTI*

J&K: 40% of Independents; second highest since 2008

Rivals claim that most are sponsored by BJP to divide votes

SRINAGAR, 16 SEPT

More than 40 per cent of the 908 candidates contesting the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are Independents, leading to claims that a large number of them have been propped up by BJP to divide votes.

These are the first Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir since the 2019 abrogation of Article 370 and its reorganisation into two Union territories.

The number of Assembly seats has also risen from the earlier 87 to 90 -- 47 in the Kashmir Valley and 43 in Jammu -- following a delimitation exercise in 2022. The high number of Independent candidates in the fray have led to National Conference, Congress and the People's Democratic Party to allege that they were being supported by "Delhi".

A total 365 candidates have filed their nominations as Independent candidates to contest the three-phase polls.

This is the second highest number of Independents to contest the polls in Jammu and Kashmir since 2008. The total number of candidates

this time is also the second highest ever. In 2008, a whopping 1,353 candidates had contested the elections. In 2014, the last time Assembly elections were held in the erstwhile state, 831 candidates had contested the elections. Of the total, 274 had contested as Independents. This time, there are 367 candidates for the 43 seats going to the polls in the Jammu division, where BJP has a strong base, while 541 are slugging it out for 47 seats in the Valley. Former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said they had been fielded "by Delhi to divide votes".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "unusually high number" of independent candidates in the fray. *—PTI*

831 candidates had contested the elections in 2014 ***PHOTO: PTI***

Will bury terrorism deep, nobody can revive it: HM

GULABGARH, 16 SEPT

Asserting that BJP-led central government will bury terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir so deep that it can never rise again, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reiterated that Article 370 is now history and will never be a part of India's constitution again.

Addressing an election rally here in Padder-Nagseni Assembly segment of Kishtwar district on the last day of campaigning, Shah said the National Conference-Congress alliance will not be able to form the J&K government. He added that attempts are being made to revive and strengthen terrorism like the 1990s. He paid tributes to all those who have been killed in terror-related incidents, specially referring to deaths of BJP leaders. *—PTI*

'MODANI ENTERPRISE'

Congress hits out at Mahayuti govt over Adani deal

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Congress on Monday slammed the Mahayuti government over the Adani group winning a bid to supply 6,600 MW of bundled renewable and thermal power to Maharashtra and wondered if "these revdis" to the conglomerate will put a heavy burden of tariff on the state's consumers.

Congress General Secretary in-charge Communications Jairam Ramesh said even as the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra "totters towards a landslide defeat", they choose to spend their last few days in power pursuing a "Modani enterprise", giving the Adani Group a giant power purchasing contract.

"Here are 5 questions for the non-biological Prime Minister on his new joint venture. Is it not true that – The terms and conditions of the tender issued by the Maharashtra Government for bids on 1600 MW thermal and 5000 MW solar on 13 March, 2024, were modified from the Standard Bidding Guidelines to minimise competition?" he said on X. "The tariff for the 1600 MW coal power is roughly Rs 12

Jairam Ramesh ***PHOTO: PTI***

crore per MW, at a time when Adani has itself contracted with BHEL for less than Rs 7 crore per MW, and other providers such as NTPC/DVC/Neveli Lignite Corporations are implementing large thermal projects at Rs 8-9 crore per MW," he said.

Ramesh asked whether Rs 28,000 crore of the project cost will be financed entirely by the agencies controlled by the Ministry of Power of the Maharashtra government.

"Tariffs for solar power are in the Rs 2.5 per unit range but Adani Green will be supplying power at Rs. 2.7 per unit? These revdis (freebies) distributed to the Adani Group will put a heavy burden of tariff on the 2.7 crore consumers in the state of Maharashtra?" Ramesh said. *—PTI*

AAP MLAs to meet today to decide on new CM

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

With Arvind Kejriwal expected to resign as Delhi Chief Minister, the name of Delhi's new Chief Minister will be decided at the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) legislative meeting, scheduled for Tuesday. The meeting will be held at the Kejriwal's residence at 11am today.

When Kejriwal meets Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena at 4.30pm today to submit his resignation, the newly chosen leader of the legislative party will simultaneously stake a claim for the post of Chief Minister.

AAP leader Sandeep Pathak said, "The next Chief Minister will be decided within next 1-2 days. A legislative party meeting will select one... Kejriwal is not drawn to power; he values his honour the most." Kejriwal announced on Sunday that he would resign and would not assume the chair until the people of Delhi declared him "honest." He also called for advancing polls in New Delhi to November, ahead of the scheduled February elections. *—ANI*

KOLKATA RAPE-MURDER

Doctors allege tampering of evidence

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Senior doctors of RG Kar Medical College on Monday alleged tampering of evidence in the Kolkata doctor rape and murder case.

Addressing a press conference here, they reiterated their demand for a live streaming of the meeting between them and the West Bengal government.

In a statement, the doctors have demanded that they want concerned authorities, Central

Medics take part in a protest march over the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor, amid rain, in Kolkata ***PHOTO: PTI***

Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Supreme Court to expedite the investigation process and punish the culprits without any delay.

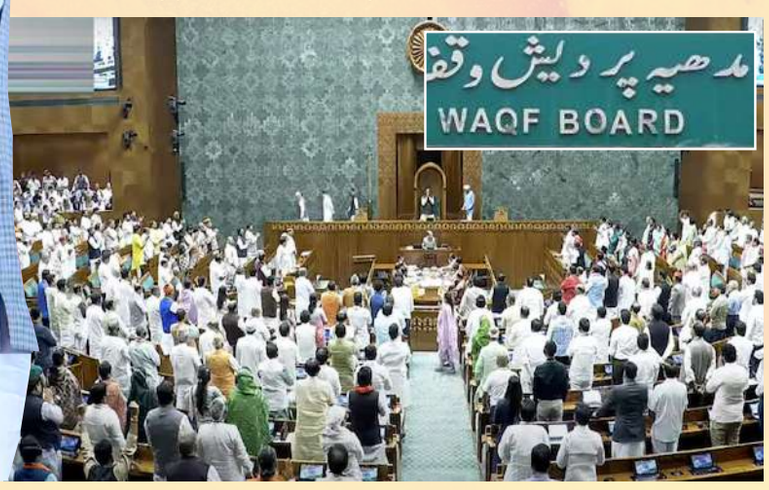
In a statement they demanded the removal of director medical education (DME), director health services (DHS) and health secretary as their signatures are present in the order for construction work in the immediate auspices of the crime scene, when it should have been completely cordoned off. They also demanded proper security and functional basic amenities in all hospitals and government healthcare centres. *—PTI*

NDA IS 100 DAYS OLD

Coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday the coalition govt, NDA is celebrating its 100 days today. BJP fell short of a majority for the first time ever-winning only 240 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, ending a decade of BJP dominance at the Centre.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The NDA government will implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure. A high-level panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind in March recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.



HERE IS WHAT HAPPENED SO FAR

OFF TO A SHAKY START

- Nationwide protests erupted criticising the National Testing Agency (NTA) for its failures in conducting exams, with student bodies calling for Union Education Minister's resignation. NTA faced scrutiny in June over lapses in the NEET-UG 2024 medical entrance exam, including alleged paper leaks and irregularities.
- The UGC-NET exam held on 18 June was cancelled by the Education Ministry to ensure " highest level of transparency and sanctity" in the examination process. The June edition of the Joint CSIR-UGC NET was postponed as the papers were allegedly leaked on the dark web.
- The NEET-PG entrance exam, scheduled for 23 June, was postponed by the Union Health Ministry as a precautionary measure amid allegations regarding the integrity of certain competitive exams.

TROUBLE IN UNION BUDGET

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman faced flak for high taxes in the Union Budget. The government hiked the standard deduction by 50% from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 and tweaked tax slabs under the new income tax regime to provide more money for the salaried class.
- There were allegations that non-BJP states were ignored in the Union Budget. In protest, most states boycotted the July NITI Aayog meeting.

MANIPUR BURNS AGAIN

- The Modi government has come under fire for the escalating clashes between the ethnic Kuki-Zo and Meitei factions in Manipur. The violence has intensified, with the use of drones and grenades. The Opposition has accused Modi of neglecting Manipur while travelling abroad and failing to visit the violence-hit state. Since 1 September, at least 12 people, including two women, elderly people and a retired soldier died and over 20 others injured.

CRACKS WITHIN BJP

- The upcoming elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Jammu & Kashmir pose a significant challenge for the Modi government. BJP's Mahayuti coalition is under pressure ahead of the polls in Maharashtra following a poor performance in the Lok Sabha elections.
- There are high hopes for Jharkhand as turncoats, including former CM and JMM leader Champai Soren, joined BJP.
- In a major setback for BJP ahead of the Haryana polls, 3 BJP leaders quit the party following the release of 21 candidates in its second list for the elections.
- Following BJP's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha elections, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attributed the poor results to overconfidence. However, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya criticised Yogi's campaign management and highlighted the internal discontent, asserting that the organisation, not the leadership, is the true force behind the government. Maurya met BJP President JP Nadda in New Delhi, amid rumours of Yogi's resignation. Maurya had reportedly skipped cabinet meetings.
- Discontent within Tamil Nadu BJP unit escalated after the Lok Sabha elections. Leaders have criticised state Party President K Annamalai for his poor strategies and campaign management. They believe that allying with AIADMK would have been more beneficial for the party. Amid the tussle, Annamalai left for UK hinting at a break from politics.

MAJOR U-TURNS

- **UPSC scraps lateral entry advertisements:** The Centre has cancelled its advertisement for lateral entry into the bureaucracy after facing criticism from the Opposition. The scheme aimed at filling key positions in ministries without considering quotas for SC, ST, and OBC candidates, focusing purely on merit.
- **Broadcasting Bill draft:** The Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024, intended to replace the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, was withdrawn. The government decided to hold discussions with stakeholders on the draft bill after it faced criticism for being inclined towards censorship.
- **Waqf Bill sent to Joint Parliamentary Committee:** The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which sought significant changes to the Waqf Act of 1995, was sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee following criticism from Muslim bodies and opposition from BJP allies such as LJP, JD-U, and Chandrababu Naidu led TDP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U).
- **Rollback of removal of indexation benefits on sale of property:** The Centre revised its stance on the proposed removal of tax benefits for Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG). The government decided to offer taxpayers the option to pay 20 percent LTCG tax with indexation benefits on properties acquired before 23 July, 2024.

MAJOR IMPACTS

- **New criminal laws:** New criminal laws came into effect on 1 July.
- **Ayushman Bharat health insurance:** Health insurance coverage under the Ayushman Bharat scheme has been extended to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, regardless of income. This initiative will benefit six crore senior citizens from 4.5 crore families, providing Rs 5 lakh in free health insurance coverage.
- **PM Kisan Nidhi:** The 17th instalment of PM Kisan Nidhi has been announced. As a result, 9.3 crore farmers will receive benefits totalling Rs 20,000 crore.

100-DAY PLAN

- **Uniform Pension rules:** Uniform pension rules are being introduced across most government services, except defence, to reduce red tape and streamline pension disbursement.
- **E-Office initiative:** An e-office system is planned for all subordinate and autonomous organisations. This includes end-to-end digitisation of government services through an integrated portal across ministries.
- **Mission Karmayogi:** Mission Karmayogi, aimed at capacity building among civil servants, will be intensified to enhance the interface between citizens and government.

Research: Aarati Krishna

PHOTO: X

Cab overturns as BMW, Mercedes 'race' in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 16 SEPT

A family of four, including a 10-year-old child, narrowly escaped injury on Sunday when the cab they were travelling in overturned after being hit by a BMW. The BMW reportedly lost control while allegedly racing a Mercedes on the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, where the speed limit is 80 km/h. The two cars lost control while speeding on the sea link around 10:20am and hit the Wagon R, the app-based cab, from behind. The drivers of both cars, Tariq Chaudhary and Sehbaz Khan, have been arrested. They face charges of attempted culpable homicide and rash driving. According to police sources both the arrested men are working in a private company and the vehicles involved in the accident were registered in the name of their companies.—*Agencies*

4 killed as truck crashes into villagers in UP

RAJPURA, 16 SEPT

Four people were killed while five others sustained injuries in Bhopatpur village in Uttar Pradesh, early on Monday morning when a speeding pickup truck crashed into villagers. According to sources, the truck which was driven at high speed hit four individuals sitting by the roadside. The victims, identified as Liladhar, 60, Dharamal, 40, Ompal, 32, and Puran Singh, 45, died on the spot. Additionally, five other villagers from Bhopatpur sustaine e injured: Niranjan, 30, Jamuna Singh, 60, Gangaprasad, 55, Omprakash, 50, and four-year-old Avadesh. Sources added that the police have taken the pickup driver into custody and are completing the formalities for the deceased —*ANI*

2 carrying Tricolour with 'crescent moon, star' detained

SARAN, 16 SEPT

Police on Monday detained two people for allegedly carrying India's national flag with a 'crescent moon and star' in place of the Ashoka Chakra during a procession in Bihar's Saran district, officials said. The flag was immediately seized by the police and two people have been detained in connection with the case, police said. A statement issued by Saran police said, "A video went viral on social media showing a tricolour with a crescent moon and star symbol at its centre in place of the Ashoka Chakra, hoisted at a vehicle during Milad-un-Nabi procession." Police said the incident took place in Kopa bazar area, prompting them to launch an investigation for violation of the Flag Code of India.—*PTI*

BSF seizes heroin in Punjab during border operation

TARN TARAN, 16 SEPT

Border Security Force (BSF) troops seized two suspected packets of heroin during a nighttime patrol and search operation along the Tarn Taran border on Sunday. The packets were discovered at 9:45 pm in the border area near Naushera Dhalla village. According to the BSF spokesperson, the packets were wrapped in yellow adhesive tape secured with black tape, and each packet also had an improvised iron ring and two illuminating sticks attached. The total weight of the suspected heroin was 1.146 kilograms. The BSF stated, "Keen observation and diligent efforts of BSF troops effectively thwarted yet another attempt to smuggle a narcotics consignment into Punjab from across the border." Earlier, on the night of 13 September acting on intelligence from the BSF, a joint operation with Punjab Police was conducted in Jodhawala, Fazilka. —*ANI*

Manipur lifts internet suspension from valley dists

Meanwhile, grenade explodes at Minister's home; none hurt

IMPHAL, 16 SEPT

The Manipur government on Monday lifted the temporary suspension on internet services in the five valley districts with immediate effect.

Commissioner (Home) N Ashok Kumar said the state government has reviewed the prevailing law and order situation and decided to lift the internet suspension, which was imposed as a preventive measure in the public interest on 10 September.

On 13 September, the state government lifted the restrictions on broadband services "conditionally".

In an order issued by the Home Department, he said, "The state government has decided to lift any form of internet suspension in the state of Manipur which was in good faith imposed as preventive measures in public interests."

Internet services were temporarily suspended in Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching district from 3 pm on 10 September in the wake of student protests demanding the removal of the DGP and security advisor for their alleged inability to handle attacks by militants.

Manipur CM Biren Singh said that drugs worth Rs 60,000 crore have been seized in the last six years **PHOTO: ANI**

The protests resulted in clashes with security forces, injuring more than 80 people, including students and police personnel.

All internet users are requested to refrain from activities which may cause situations which will warrant for suspension of internet services in the future, the order said.

Meanwhile, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday said his government's "war on drugs" and eviction drives to clear encroachments in reserved forests were not targeted against any particular community.

Drugs worth Rs 60,000 crore have been seized and 18,000 hectares of poppy cultivation destroyed in the last six years, and those affected by such operations would naturally be frustrated, he said.

Over 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence in Manipur between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjacent hills-based Kukis since May last year.

> **I want to request all that we need to unite as it is a difficult time...We need to have more constructive discussions in the media too on how to bring peace**
>
> -N Biren Singh, Manipur Chief Minister

In another incident, a grenade, hurled by suspected militants, exploded in the residence of Manipur Minister Kashim Vashum in Ukhrul district, causing damage to his property, police said on Monday. No one was injured in the incident that occurred on Saturday night, a senior officer said. Vashum said he and his family members were not at home when the grenade exploded. The grenade explosion damaged walls and parts of the minister's house, he said. "Splinters have been recovered and tight security measures have been taken after the grenade attack," the officer said. —*PTI*

SHAHI IDGAH DISPUTE

SC to hear Muslim side's plea against MP HC order

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

PHOTO: PTI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a plea of the Muslim side against the Allahabad High Court order rejecting their petition challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar will hear the plea filed by the Committee of Management Trust, Shahi Masjid Idgah against the 1 August order of the High Court. The mosque management committee's plea has been filed through advocate RHA Sikander.

On 1 August, the High Court rejected the plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura, and ruled that the "religious character" of Shahi Idgah needs to be determined.

The High Court had dismissed the Muslim side's contention that the suits filed by Hindu litigants relating to the dispute over the Shahi Idgah mosque complex adjoining the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple violated the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, and were thus not maintainable.

The 1991 Act prohibits changing the religious character of any shrine from what existed on the day of the country's Independence. The cases filed by the Hindu side seek the "removal" of the Aurangzeb-era mosque they claim was built after demolishing a temple that once stood there. On 9 August, the top court had extended its stay till November on the operation of the Allahabad High Court order that allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah mosque complex. A bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna had ordered continuation of the stay the apex court had imposed on 16 January on the operation of the 14 December, 2023 order of the High Court. —*PTI*

WCC accuses TV channel of invading privacy; writes toVijayan

T'PURAM, 16 SEPT

The Women in Cinema Collective, (WCC) an outfit of women professionals working in the Malayalam film industry, on Monday wrote an open letter to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan seeking his intervention to protect the privacy of women who have deposed in front of the Justice K Hema Committee.

In the letter posted on its official FB page, the outfit alleged that a private Malayalam television channel is telecasting reports based on the purported statements given by the women film professionals before the government-appointed panel.

The WCC said they were now witnessing a situation in which those statements were being dragged to an "irresponsible media trial' by the television channel.

Pinarayi Vijayan **PHOTO: PTI**

It further said that the telecasting of the private statements given by the survivors raises suspicion about the intension of at least some people who have access to the Committee report.

The news reports were being aired in a manner in which people can identify the survivors easily, the outfit detailed.

The Justice K Hema Committee was constituted by the Kerala government after the 2017 actress assault case and its report revealing instances of harassment and exploitation of women in the Malayalam cinema industry. Following the allegations of sexual harassment and exploitation cropping up against several actors and directors in the wake of the report being made public, the state government on August 25 announced the establishment of a seven-member special investigation team to probe them. —*PTI*

MEET-AND-GREET

AICC Secy Mansoor Ali Khan with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Chief Minister's residence in Hyderabad on Monday **PHOTO: SALAR**

Boy injured in animal attack hours after Yogi's visit

BAHRAICH, 16 SEPT

Hours after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to the Mahasi area affected by wolf attacks, a 12-year-old boy was severely injured by an unidentified wild animal in a village in Mahasi tehsil here.

Villagers are attributing the attack to a man-eating wolf, while the Forest Department has refuted this claim, suggesting the involvement of another animal.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ajit Pratap Singh on Monday said that around 2:30 am, Imran (12), son of Mohammad Umar from Piprimohan village was injured by an unknown animal.

"Upon immediate investigation at the scene, no wolf tracks were found. The tracks that were discovered did not match those of a wolf," Singh said. Earlier on Sunday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited the Mahasi area, which has been terrorized by wolves and stated that shooting the dangerous wolves would be the last resort. He also conducted an aerial survey of the region and met families of those who lost their lives in the recent wolf attacks during the human-wildlife conflict.

He assured that Forest Department teams would remain in the area until it is safe. —*PTI*

Magisterial probe ordered in Faridabad underpass drowning

BHUJ, 16 SEPT

A magisterial probe has been initiated into the case of two bank employees who died after getting trapped in their sports utility vehicle in the flooded Old Faridabad Railway underpass here, an official said on Monday.

"This was a very big accident. A report is being prepared on this matter. Legal action will definitely be taken if negligence comes to light. It will also ensure that such an accident does not happen again", said Kuldeep Singh, DCP NIT.

The incident occurred late Friday night when the victims, Punyashray Sharma, 48 and Viraj, 26, were returning home in Greater Faridabad from Gurugram, police said earlier. Due to the rainfall throughout Friday, the underpass was inundated and as a precaution, cars were being warned against entering it.

PHOTO: PTI

They said that around 11.50 pm, an XUV 700 entered the underpass, ignoring all warnings and got stuck in the deep floodwater, following which water gushed into the vehicle.

"A barricade was put up at the entrance of the underpass since it was waterlogged. The occupants of the SUV were told by police officers to take a different route," police sub-inspector Rajesh Kumar earlier told PTI Videos. "But they removed the barricade and attempted to go through the underpass. The car's doors got locked as it got stuck in the water and the duo died by drowning," he said —*PTI*

HP govt removes illegal structures

HAMIRPUR, 16 SEPT

Amid protests over "illegal" mosques in various parts of Himachal Pradesh, the Forest Department on Monday demolished the newly constructed structure of a 'mazar' (shrine) of Lakhdata peer in Shastar area of Hamirpur district, officials said.

According to the officials, the construction work of this 'mazar' on the forest land sparked controversy after someone posted pictures of the site on social media in the morning, leading to resentment within the Hindu community and escalating tensions.

Recognising the seriousness of the situation, the local district administration, along with security personnel, swiftly intervened and instructed the Forest Department to take appropriate action to defuse the crisis, they said.

Following the administration's orders, forest officials demolished an illegal wall that was being built, A spokesperson for the Forest Department said the department would demarcate the land where the 'mazar', reportedly dedicated to Lakhdata Peer, was being constructed.

Hamirpur is the home district of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The officials said he was kept informed of the situation by local authorities as they acted to remove the wall. —*PTI*

Rain causes inundation in coastal dists of WB

KOLKATA, 16 SEPT

Heavy rainfall in West Bengal's coastal districts and other areas, caused by a deep depression and persistent rain over the past two days, has inundated low-lying areas in various parts of the region, officials said.

There are no predictions of further heavy rainfall.

The rainfall affected normal life in several districts, including Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Kolkata.

In Paschim Medinipur district, water level of Shilabati River is flowing above danger level, an official said.

The Sub-Divisional Officer of Ghatal in Paschim Medinipur, Suman Biswas, assured that the administration has stocked relief materials and kept a relief camp ready if needed.The local administration has also assured residents that the situation is under control. —*PTI*

People ride a cart amid rain, in West Bengal, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

FOR BETTER WAGES

100 Samsung workers detained for protest march

CHENNAI, 16 SEPT

The Tamil Nadu police on Monday detained more than 100 Samsung union employees who had planned to march towards the Kanchipuram Collector office with their demands.

According to police officials, "So far more than 100 Samsung employees have been detained in Sri Sidheswarar Mahal."

For the past seven days, the Samsung Employees Union has been protesting with demands such as better wages and working environment. On last Thursday, a Samsung Employees Union representative also met Tamil Nadu Labour Department Minister CV Ganeshan and had talks in the Tamil Nadu Secretariat where a conclusion was not reached.

For the past seven days, the workers has been protesting with demands such as better wages and working environment **PHOTO: ANI**

Afterwards, Samsung Employees continued their protest near Sunkuwarchatiram factory without coming to the Kanchipuram city.

The employees have demanded the release of The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) leader E Muthukumar, who was detained by Kanchipuram police ahead of employees planned march towards district collector office.

CITU has alleged that the employees are being forcefully detained by police officials.

CITU State President, A Soundarajan met Kanchipuram Collector Kalaiselvi and gave petition regarding ongoing Samsung Union Protest

He said, "We gave petition regarding ongoing Samsung Protest to District collector. Union was formed two months before in Samsung facility. Management was taking efforts to undermine the union and pressured the employees a lot to leave the Union. —*ANI*

Probe ordered into woman cop's 'search' of examinee

GUWAHATI, 16 SEPT

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday directed the DGP to investigate the allegation of a job aspirant that a woman constable searched her private parts before she entered an examination hall in Nalbari during the test for filling up Group III posts.

He also said the director general of police informed him of another incident in North Lakhimpur, where "cheating material" was recovered from a woman candidate during the exam.

"My instruction to the police on the Nalbari incident - I spoke with the DGP, Assam, @gpsinghips and instructed him to investigate the incident where a girl student has alleged that a lady constable searched her private parts before she entered the examination hall," Sarma posted on 'X'.

"For me, the dignity and respect of our mothers and sisters are of utmost importance and non-negotiable," he said.

The government has a crucial task of conducting the Assam Direct Recruitment Examination (ADRE) with the highest level of integrity and transparency, he said.

"We owe this to the entire younger generation of ours, and it cannot be compromised under any circumstances," Sarma said.

At the same time, it must be ensured that the "decency and dignity of female candidates are upheld at all times", he said.

—*PTI*

Cow vigilantism, hate crimes & a trail of fear

Days after Lok Sabha poll results were announced on 4 June, 2024, India saw a rise in hate crimes, including lynchings and demolitions targeting minorities. Salar News recalls some of these cases:

CHIKHODRA, GUJARAT
(22 JUNE)
1 DEAD, 2 INJURED

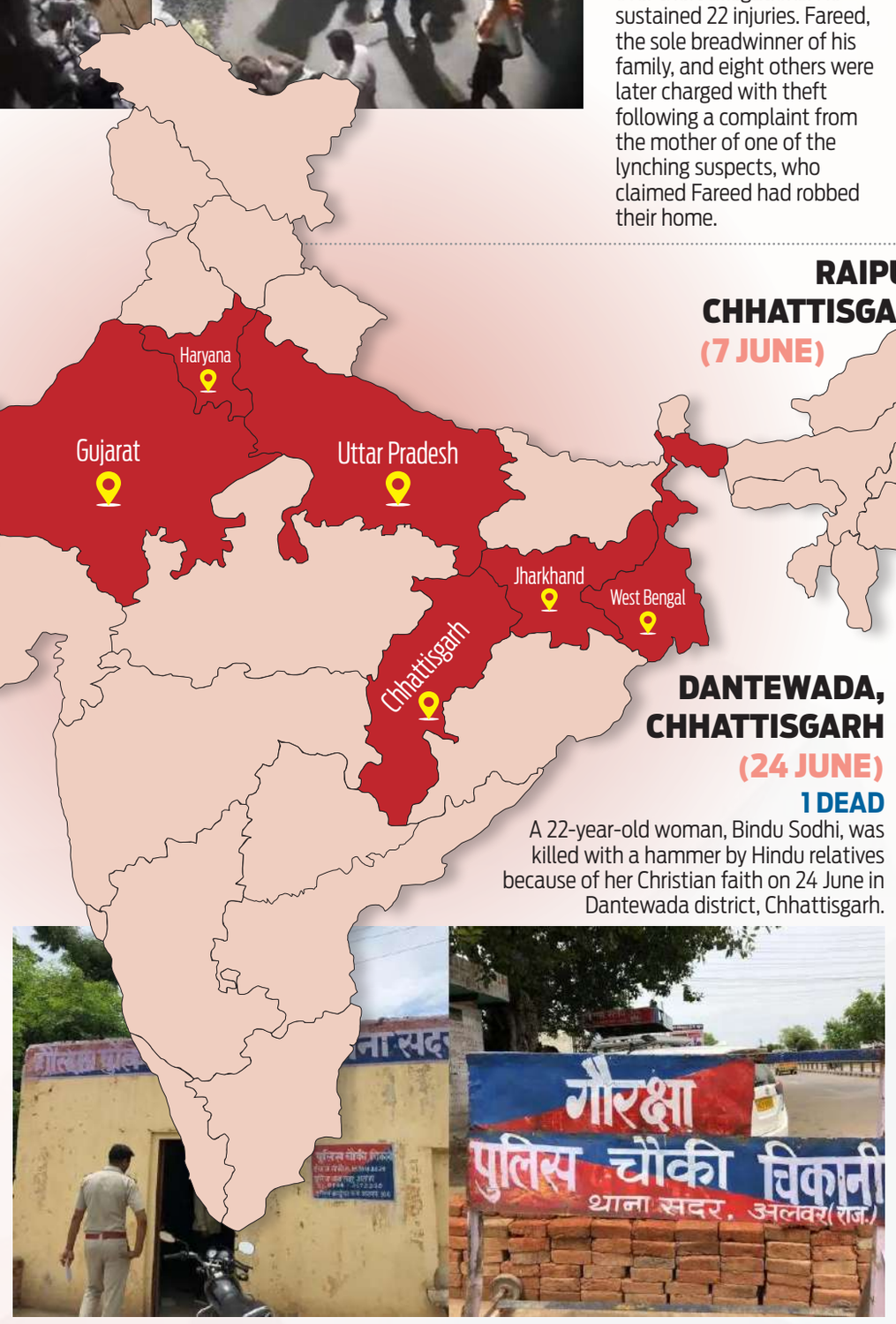
A 23-year-old man, Salman Vohra, who went to watch a cricket match, was beaten to death by a mob angered by Muslim men's participation in the tournament. The deceased's wife was a month pregnant. His attackers reportedly almost bit his ear off and a knife wound damaged the kidney. At least 11 people were arrested.

CHARKHI DADRI, HARYANA
(27 AUGUST)
1 DEAD

A 26-year-old scrap collector from West Bengal was beaten to death by a mob in Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district over suspicions of consuming beef. The victim, identified as Sabir Malik, was lured to a local bus stand by three men under the pretence of selling scrap. He was then targeted by a crowd who accused him of eating beef.

FARIDABAD, HARYANA
(27 AUGUST)
1 DEAD

A Class 12 student, Aryan Mishra, was chased for 30km in a car and shot dead by five cow vigilantes, suspecting the boy to be a cattle smuggler. Aryan went out with his friends Harshit and Shanky in a car around midnight to eat noodles. But the Faridabad police has so far refused to confirm this theory of mistaken identity.



ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH
(18 JUNE)
1 DEAD

Mohammad Fareed, 35, was was reportedly forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and beaten to death by a mob over theft allegations. He sustained 22 injuries. Fareed, the sole breadwinner of his family, and eight others were later charged with theft following a complaint from the mother of one of the lynching suspects, who claimed Fareed had robbed their home.

SHAMLI, UTTAR PRADESH
(4 JULY)
1 DEAD

Firoz aka Kala Qureshi, was beaten to death by three men — Pinky, Pankaj and Rajendra — on suspicion of breaking into their house. Following this, UP police booked journalist Zakir Ali Tyagi for allegedly promoting enmity on grounds of religion through "malicious" posts on X over the incident.

RAIPUR, CHHATTISGARH
(7 JUNE)
3 DEAD

3 cattle transporters Guddu Khan, Chand Miyan and Saddam Qureshi were allegedly lynched by 14 people over cow smuggling suspicion. The former two died immediately while Qureshi succumbed to injuries on 18 June. However, SIT in its chargesheet claimed that they "jumped" to their deaths and were neither assaulted nor confronted by cow vigilantes. The police had earlier invoked assault and attempted murder charges in the FIR.

DANTEWADA, CHHATTISGARH
(24 JUNE)
1 DEAD

A 22-year-old woman, Bindu Sodhi, was killed with a hammer by Hindu relatives because of her Christian faith on 24 June in Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh.

BHANGAR, WEST BENGAL
(8 JULY)

1 DEAD

Azgar Molla, 50, was allegedly tied up and beaten to death on suspicion of theft in South 24 Parganas' Bhangar market, 500m away from the police station, as people watched the incident without interfering. No case was filed by the family.

BARAKATHA, JHARKHAND
(30 JUNE)
1 DEAD

Maulana Shahabuddin, an imam, was beaten to death by a group of men after his bike allegedly hit a woman, causing her injuries. The police denied any mob lynching or communal angle. Instead, they stated they would investigate the case as an accident.

Delhi civic body razes mosque

VANDALISM, STONE-PELTING, ARSON & MORE...

Despite assuring Delhi High Court that the civic body would not demolish mosques or religious property, it razed the historic Jannat-ul-Firdaus Mosque and a madrassa citing legal violations, on 23 June. Following this, Hindutva leader Preet Sirohi in a video vowed to continue targeting "illegal" mosques in Delhi.

Medak
Telangana

A mob of RSS workers attacked Miraj-Ul-Uloom Madrassa over rumours of cattle sacrifice on 16 June. When the injured were taken to the hospital, the mob re-grouped and pelted stones there too.

Bulandshahr
Uttar Pradesh

Two brothers Tanzeem & Faizan were thrashed by a mob on 3 July over an argument with a shopkeeper who refused to exchange a product. The two were later arrested for "breaching peace".

Mandla
Madhya Pradesh

Homes of 11 people were bulldozed after police allegedly found beef in their refrigerators and cows in their backyards on 14 June. Two more houses of Muslims were razed on 27 June in Noorabad three days after Bajrang Dal workers demanded the same.

Nahan
Himachal

A mob of 400-500 people looted and ransacked a garment shop of one Javed in the alleged presence of police. The video was widely shared on social media. The mob accused Javed of posting a video of cow slaughter during Eid-Al-Adha

Balasore
Odisha

Curfew was imposed in Balasore after members of one community attacked villages and pelted stones on the houses of another community and set them on fire over "cow slaughter". There were no reports of FIR being registered.

Nashik
Maharashtra

Ashraf Ali Sayyed Hussain, 72, native of Jalgaon, Maharashtra, was slapped and assaulted by three co-passengers on Dhule-Mumbai CSMT Express in Nashik over the suspicion of carrying beef.

Mewat, Haryana

On 15 June, cow vigilantes armed with guns raided Mewat village and assaulted two Muslim men over alleged cattle slaughter and selling beef.

Khordha, Odisha

A mob chanting "Jai Shri Ram" barged into a Muslim house and seized all the meat from their fridge on 16 June. This incident took place shortly after Eid-Al-Adha.

Faridabad, Haryana

On 18 June, a Hindu mob barged into a meat shop and assaulted the Muslim owner. The mob also beat 2 Hindu customers who were buying meat there "for eating non-vegetarian on Tuesday".

Pakri, Bihar

A rickshaw driver was assaulted by Bajrang Dal cow vigilantes over the suspicion of carrying beef on 19 June.

KAITHAL, Haryana

Sikh man Sukhwinder Singh was attacked with bricks by two men on a motorcycle. The attackers hurled slurs like "Khalistani" at him before assaulting.

Research: Amina Afaq, Reha Fathima **Design**: Mahesh

Things to know about Trump assassination plot

After the attack Donald Trump said he will never surrender

FORT LAUDERDALE, 16 SEPT

Former president Donald Trump is safe following what the FBI says "appears to be an attempted assassination" while playing golf two months after another attempt on his life at a rally in Pennsylvania.

Here are five things to know about what happened Sunday to the Republican presidential nominee.

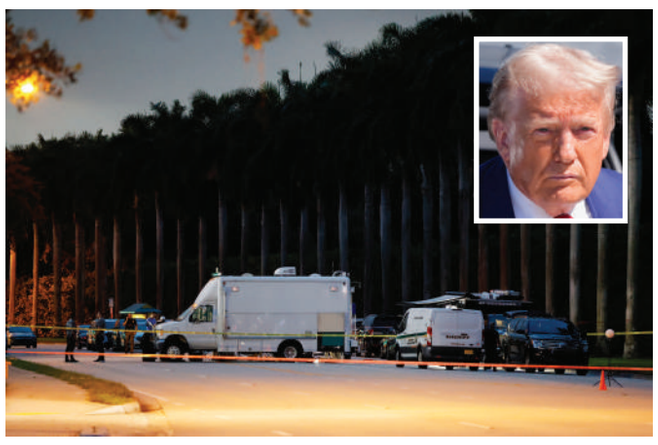
1. Who is the suspect?

Law enforcement officials said the man who pointed the rifle and was arrested is Ryan Wesley Routh. The officials identified the suspect to Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Records show Routh, 58, lived in North Carolina for most of his life before moving in 2018 to Kaaawa, Hawaii, where he and his son operated a company building sheds, according to an archived version of the webpage for the business.

2. How did this happen?

Local authorities said the gunman was about 400 yards to 500 yards away from Trump and hiding in shrubbery while the former president was playing a round of golf at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach.



Police crime scene vehicles are seen at Trump International Golf Club after the apparent assassination attempt of Donald Trump in US **PHOTO: PTI**

Ric Bradshaw, sheriff of Palm Beach County, said that when people get into the shrubbery around the course, "they're pretty much out of sight."

3. What has Trump said since the attempt?

In an email to supporters, Trump said: "There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!"

Fox News host Sean Hannity, a close friend of the former president's, said on air that he spoke with Trump and his golf partner, Steve Witkoff, afterward. They told Hannity they had been on the fifth hole when they heard a "pop pop, pop pop." Within seconds, he said Witkoff recounted, Secret Service agents "pounced on" Trump and "covered him" to protect him. Moments later, Witkoff said, a "fast cart" with steel reinforcement and other protection was able to whisk Trump away.

4. What is Vice President Kamala Harris saying?

Harris, Trump's Democratic opponent in the Presidential election, posted on X that she had been briefed on the reports of gunshots fired. "I am glad he is safe. Violence has no place in America." The White House said President Joe Biden and Harris would be kept updated on the investigation. The White House added it was "relieved" to know Trump is safe.

5. What's next?

Trump has not announced any changes to his schedule and is set to speak live on X on Monday night from his Mar-a-Lago resort to launch his sons' crypto platform.

Meanwhile, the leaders of a US Congressional bipartisan task force investigating the 13 July assassination attempt on Trump said they have requested a briefing by the Secret Service. *—PTI*

Starmer, Meloni hold talks on curbing migration

ROME, 16 SEPT

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer is meeting Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome on Monday, as the two very different politicians, from left and right, seek common cause to curb migrants reaching their shores by boat. The visit comes after at least eight seaborne migrants died off the French coast over the weekend. Support for Ukraine is also on the agenda for the trip, part of Starmer's effort to reset relations with European neighbours after Britain's acrimonious 2020 departure from the European Union. The centre-left Labour Party prime minister isn't a natural ally of Meloni, who heads the far-right Brothers of Italy party. But migration has climbed the UK political agenda, and Starmer hopes Italy's tough approach can help him stop people fleeing war and poverty trying to cross the English Channel in flimsy, overcrowded boats. More than 22,000 migrants have made the perilous crossing from France this year. Starmer promised "a new era of international enforcement to dismantle these networks, protect our shores and bring order to the asylum system". *—AP*

Nepal's PM to raise issue of melting snow at UNGA

KATHMANDU, 16 SEPT

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli said on Monday that he would draw the world's attention to the issues of melting snow and rising sea levels at the United Nations General Assembly's 79th session. Addressing the House of Representatives about his forthcoming visit to the US to attend the UN General Assembly, Oli said he would present Nepal's clear view on the protection of the human race and the Earth as well as the eco-system of the Himalayas and the oceans at the 'Summit of the Future'. Oli on September 20 is embarking on a visit to the US, his first foreign trip after assuming the post of prime minister. The 'Summit of the Future' will be convened at the world body's headquarters on 22 and 23 September. *—PTI*

Hindus hold protest in Pak over temple attack

HYDERABAD, 16 SEPT

The Hindu community in the New Aliabad Colony in Pakistan's Hyderabad staged a protest in front of the Hyderabad Press Club and later in front of the SSP office, showcasing outrage over the alleged assault on RamaPir Hindu Temple, The Express Tribune reported. The demonstration, which included women and children, was in response to the lack of arrests in connection with the reported assault on the RamaPir Temple in the colony, which left four people injured. According to the report, a case has been filed against 11 people under other provisions, including charges of attempted murder related to the attack on the temple on Halanaka Road, along with incidents of firing and violence. *—ANI*

4 CHILDREN KILLED

Palestinians evacuate a body from a site hit by an Israeli bombardment on Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip **PHOTO: PTI**

Israeli airstrikes kill 16 in Gaza

JERUSALEM, 16 SEPT

Palestinian officials say Israeli airstrikes have killed 16 people in the Gaza Strip, including five women and four children.

A strike early Monday flattened a home in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, killing at least 10 people, including four women and two children. The Awda Hospital, which received the bodies, confirmed the toll and said another 13 people were wounded. Hospital records show that the dead included a mother, her child and her five siblings.

Another strike on a home in Gaza City killed six people, including a woman and two children, according to the Civil Defence, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. Israel says it only targets militants and accuses Hamas and other armed groups of endangering civilians by operating in residential areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

The Gaza Health Ministry says over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since Hamas' 7 October attack triggered the war nearly a year ago. It does not distinguish between fighters and civilians in its count but says a little over half of those killed were women and children. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence. *—AP*

At least 20 people killed in New Guinea violence: UN

MELBOURNE, 16 SEPT

Violence among illegal miners in Papua New Guinea has left between 20 and 50 people dead, a United Nations official said on Monday.

The fighting started days ago and is continuing in the Porgera Valley, near the site of a landslide in May estimated to have killed more than 2,000 people, according to the South Pacific island nation's government. The UN's humanitarian adviser for Papua New Guinea, Mate Bagossy, said the death toll of at least 20 as of Sunday was based on information from community members and local authorities in Enga province in the nation's mountainous inland. "We have confirmed that at least 20 people have been killed, but as per the last news that I have, it's likely up to 50 people," Bagossy told The Associated Press. "The fighting is continuing." "Today some security forces have started moving in ... so it remains to be seen what effect this will have," Bagossy said, referring to the army and police. Bagossy did not have information on the numbers wounded. National Police Commissioner David Manning said an emergency had been declared on Saturday after the violence escalated, with police mobilising to protect residents and infrastructure. *—AP*

It is estimated that at least 2,000 people have been killed, according to the South Pacific island nation's government **PHOTO: THEDAILYSTAR.NET**

Germany begins conducting checks at all borders

KEHL, 16 SEPT

Germany on Monday began random checks at its borders with five Western European nations as it seeks to crack down on irregular migration, expanding a system of controls that are already in place at four other borders. The police controls began at the borders with France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark on Monday morning and are due to continue for six months. Germany has already been carrying out the checks at its borders with Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland since last year. Germany, a European Union member, announced last week that it was expanding border checks to all nine of its land borders this week to crack down on irregular migration. *—AP*

PHOTO: X@IMP_NAVIGATOR

HOUTHIS CLAIM DOWNING ANOTHER US MQ-9 REAPER DRONE

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed Monday that they shot down another American-made MQ-9 Reaper drone, with video circulating online showing what appeared to be a surface-to-air missile strike and flaming wreckage strewn across the ground. The US military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Houthis' claimed downing of a drone over the country's southwestern Dhamar province **—AP**

Typhoon Bebinca makes landfall in Shanghai

BEIJING, 16 SEPT

Bebinca, the strongest typhoon to have hit China's Shanghai city in 75 years packing wind speed of 42 meters, made landfall on Monday bringing the megacity of 25 million to a grinding halt.

The typhoon, with the maximum wind force near its center reaching 42 meters per second, churned ashore at the Lingang area of Shanghai's Pudong District, the Shanghai central meteorological observatory said.

The city has already mobilised thousands of relief and rescue workers to attend to emergencies. Bebinca is believed to be the strongest typhoon to land in Shanghai in 75 years. It is the 13th typhoon to hit China this year.

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters on Sunday activated a Level IV emergency response for east China's Anhui Province and raised the response in Shanghai and Zhejiang to Level III, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Bebinca has already led to flight cancellations over Shanghai and the suspension of passenger ferry operations in the city. Shanghai Railway Station has announced plans to suspend passenger trains on several routes passing through the city from Sunday to Monday.

More than 4,14,000 people in the megacity of 25 million have been relocated by the end of Sunday, and all highways in the city were closed. *—PTI*

Taliban suspend polio campaigns in Afg: UN

DUBAI, 16 SEPT

The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said on Monday.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralysing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan.

News of the suspension was relayed to UN agencies right before the September immunisation campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organisation said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunisations in places like mosques. The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023."The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO. "Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy." Anti-polio campaigns in neighbouring Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilise children.

The suspension of the September campaign is a blow for the eradication of polio in Afghanistan. As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronized campaign" focusing on improved vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an effective and timely response to detections elsewhere. *—AP*

Shabana Maani, gives a polio vaccination to a child in the old part of Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, March 29, 2021 **PHOTO: AP**

PHOTOS: X/@TELEVISIONACAD

Shogun steals the show at EMMYS NIGHT

The 2024 Emmy Awards took place on Sunday night at the Peacock Theater in downtown Los Angeles, with controversial Netflix show 'Baby Reindeer', kitchen drama 'The Bear', and historical Japan-set series 'Shōgun' all winning big. The Award is the most renowned accolades given to television and emerging media performances. Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Gaurav Gupta were some of the Indian designers who made their presence felt at the award ceremony

Best Directing for a Comedy Series: Christopher Storer (The Bear)

Best Actress in a Drama Series: Anna Sawai

Best Actor in a Drama Series: AHiroyuki Sanada

Best Drama Series: Shogun

Best Actor in a Drama Series: Hiroyuki Sanada (Shogun)

Best Directing for a Drama Series: Frederick EO Toye (Shogun)

Best Sound Mixing: Shogun

Best Special Visual Effects: Shogun

Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series: Elizabeth Debicki (The Crown)

Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series: Billy Crudup (The Morning Show)

Best Comedy Series: Hacks

Best Actor in a Comedy Series: Jeremy Allen White (The Bear)

Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series: Ebon Moss-Bachrach (The Bear)

Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series: Liza Colón-Zayas (The Bear)

Best Limited or Anthology Series: Baby Reindeer

Best Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie: Richard Gadd (Baby Reindeer)

Best Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie: Jodie Foster (True Detective: Night Country)

Best Supporting Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie: Lamorne Morris (Fargo)

Best Actress in a Comedy Series: Jean Smart (Hacks)

Best Supporting Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie: Jessica Gunning (Baby Reindeer)

Best Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie: Richard Gadd (Baby Reindeer)

Best Writing for a Drama Series: Will Smith (Slow Horses)

Susan Downey, and Robert Downey Jr arrive at the event

PHOTO: PTI

Goyal launches BHASKAR to boost startup ecosystem

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday launched the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative, which will serve as a central hub where startups, investors, service providers, and government bodies can collaborate and exchange ideas. "Let's make this a one-stop shop for all data dissemination for engagement and interaction, one-stop shop for the entire ecosystem through simple and easy-to-use links, and easy to navigate," he said. It will be a single point of contact for startups looking for various requirements like mentors and finance, he added. Through this platform, all the key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies. The primary goal of BHASKAR is to build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the startup ecosystem. BHASKAR will bridge the gap between startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders, allowing seamless interaction across sectors. India, home to over 1,46,000 government-recognised startups, has rapidly become one of the world's most dynamic start-up hubs. *—PTI*

Rupee rises 4 paise to close at 83.88 against US dollar

MUMBAI, 16 SEPT

The rupee witnessed range-bound trade and settled for the day higher by 4 paise at 83.88 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday supported by weak American currency and significant foreign fund inflows, while firm crude oil prices capped sharp gains. Forex traders said market participants are eagerly awaiting cues from the US Fed policy on Wednesday, with a rate cut all but certain. However, the magnitude of the cut remains uncertain. Moreover, the rupee continues to hold steady within a well-defined range on active intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), they added. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.89 and witnessed an intraday high of 83.87 and a low of 83.90 against the American currency. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 83.88 (provisional), higher by 4 paise over its previous close, amid a positive trend in domestic equities. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.39 per cent to 100.72 points. *—PTI*

RPower bags 500 MW battery energy storage contract

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Reliance Power on Monday announced that it has secured a battery storage contract of 500 MW through the e-reverse auction (eRA) conducted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The auction, held on 11 September is part of SECI's initiative to enhance energy storage capabilities across the country. The contract involves the installation of a total of 1,000 MW of standalone BESS units, awarded on a build-own-operate (BOO) model for "On Demand" usage under a tariff-based competitive bidding process. Reliance Power has secured 500 MW MWh of this capacity, marking a significant entry into the renewable energy and storage sector, a company spokesperson said. The competitive bidding saw Reliance Power submitting a tariff bid of Rs 3.81999 lakh/MW/month. This new tariff benchmark represents one of the lowest rates for BESS tenders at the 400 KV level in India to date. *—PTI*

Sensex rebounds 100 pts to lifetime high of 82,988.78

Nifty scales record intra-day level to settle at 25,383

MUMBAI, 16 SEPT

Equity benchmark index Sensex rebounded nearly 100 points to hit a lifetime closing high on Monday and Nifty scaled an intra-day record level, propelled by bargain hunting in energy, utility and banking stocks amid sustained foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intra-day high of 83,184.34.

The NSE Nifty rose 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new intra-day record peak of 25,445.70.

NTPC was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.44 per cent, followed by JSW Steel, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel.

NTPC was the biggest gainer on Sensex chart, rising 2.44 per cent, followed by JSW Steel, L&T, ICICI, Axis, Nestle, Mahindra and Tata *PHOTO: PTI*

Bajaj Finance declined over 3 per cent. Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Port and Asian Paints were the other laggards.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,364.82 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth Rs 2,532.18 crore. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.35 per cent to USD 71.90 a barrel.

On Friday, the BSE benchmark Sensex fell by 71.77 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 82,890.94.The NSE Nifty dropped 32.40 points. *—PTI*

BLOCKBUSTER DEBUT FOR BAJAJ; SHARES JUMP 114%

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Shares of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd made a solid market debut on Monday, listing with a huge premium of 114.28 per cent, against the issue price of Rs 70.

The stock got listed at Rs 150 on both the BSE and NSE, reflecting a jump of 114.28 per cent from the issue price.

Later, it zoomed 129.88 per cent to Rs 160.92 on the BSE.

At the NSE, shares of the firm surged 130 per cent to Rs 161.The company's market valuation stood at Rs 1,30,751.90 crore.

The initial share sale had a price band for the offer at Rs 66-70 per share.

The IPO had a fresh issue of equity shares of up to Rs 3,560 crore. *—PTI*

ON TAX, EDU, HOSPITALS

UPI transaction limit now increased to ₹ 5L from Monday

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

As the popularity of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a preferred payment grows, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has enhanced the UPI transaction limit to Rs 5 lakh for certain types of payments. The new limit will be effective from 16 September.

As per the NPCI circular, the Rs 5 lakh per transaction limit will be for tax payments, payments to educational institutions, hospitals and investors in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) retail direct schemes and IPOs.

In a circular dated 24 August, 2024, NPCI said, "With UPI emerging as a preferred payment method, there is a need to enhance the per-transaction limit in UPI for specific categories."

"In view of the above the per transaction value limit in UPI has now been enhanced to Rs 5 lakh for entities under categories aligned to tax payments," it added.

PHOTO: ANI

The standard UPI transaction limit is Rs 1 lakh per transaction. For capital markets, insurance, collections, and foreign remittances, the limit is Rs 2 lakh.

The merchant must be verified to use the enhanced limit. The NPCI also requires all stakeholders, including banks, UPI apps, and payment service providers (PSPs), to update their applications to adapt to the new transaction limits. *—Agencies*

26K TO GET JOBS

Torrent Power to invest ₹64K cr for green projects

GANDHINAGAR, 16 SEPT

Torrent Power on Monday pledged Rs 64,000 crore investment for green or renewable energy projects having employment potential for 26,000 people.

Torrent Power Ltd, the integrated power utility of diversified Torrent Group, has reaffirmed its commitment towards green and sustainable future as it submitted two 'Shapath Patras' to the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy at the 4th Edition of RE-Invest at Gandhinagar on Monday, a company statement said. RE-INVEST is being organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in partnership with CII.

According to the statement, the company has submitted a 'Shapath Patra' to achieve 10 Gigawatt (GW) of installed Renewable Energy (RE) capacity by 2030, with an investment of Rs 57,000 crore.

This investment is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for around 25,000 people.

PHOTO: PTI

As part of these commitments, Torrent Power on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government for execution of a 5 GW solar, wind or solar-wind hybrid project at Dwarka, in Gujarat.

The second 'Shapath Patra' was submitted for setting up 1,00,000 Kilo Tonnes Per Annum (KTPA) Green Ammonia production facility with an investment of Rs 7,200 crore and employment generation for around 1,000 people.

Torrent Group, is one of the largest companies in the country's power sector with presence across the entire power value chain -- generation, transmission and distribution. *—PTI*

SL's JVP vows to cancel Adani's project

COLOMBO, 16 SEPT

The Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) on Monday vowed to cancel the Adani Group's wind power project in Sri Lanka if it gets elected in the presidential election scheduled for the weekend.

JVP leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the presidential candidate from the broader front National People's Power (NPP), told a political chat show here that they would annul the project.

Asked if the project posed a threat to the island nation's energy sector sovereignty, Dissanayake said: "Yes. We will definitely cancel it as it threatens our energy sovereignty."

The JVP, which led a bloody anti-India rebellion in the island nation between 1987 and 1990 following India's direct intervention in the Lankan civil war through the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord, is believed to be leading in the unofficial polls ahead of the September 21 election.

The JVP dubbed the Indo-Lanka Accord a betrayal of the nation and killed the then-ruling party members, supporters and other political activists who supported the pact signed between then-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and JR Jayewardena, the president of Sri Lanka at that time.

The Adani Group has faced fundamental rights litigation in Sri Lanka's supreme court after it got approval for the proposed construction of a wind power project in the island nation's northeastern regions of Mannar and Pooneryn.

The Adani Group was set to invest over USD 440 million in the 20-year agreement for the development of 484 megawatts of wind power in the region.

Petitioners have raised environmental concerns and lack of transparency in the bidding process to grant Adani Green Energy the go-ahead. *—PTI*

RE-INVEST: Adani pledge ₹ 4L cr investment in energy project

Gandhinagar, 16 Sept

Adani Group on Monday said it has pledged Rs 4,05,800 crore investment in renewable energy projects like solar, wind and Green Hydrogen at the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo (RE-INVEST) 2024. According to the Shapat Patras (pledges) submitted at RE-INVEST to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, the group firms -- Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and Adani New Industries Ltd (ANIL), have made investment commitments in renewable projects by 2030. Adani Green Energy, India's largest renewable energy company, has committed 50 GW RE capacity by 2030 (currently at 11.2 GW operational capacity). The investment Rs 4,05,800 crore will have job creation potential for 71,100 people. *—PTI*

ADANI SHARES IN LIMELIGHT; SURGE UP TO 8%

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Shares of Adani Power jumped nearly 8 per cent on Monday after the Adani group won a bid to supply 6,600 MW of bundled renewable and thermal power to Maharashtra for the long term after its quote of Rs 4.08 per unit beat the likes of JSW Energy and Torrent Power.

The stock surged 7.53 per cent to Rs 681.30 on the BSE.

At the NSE, it jumped 7.59 per cent to Rs 681.55.

Shares of Adani Green Energy also soared 7.39 per cent to Rs 1,920 on the BSE. At the NSE, it rallied 7.25 per cent to Rs 1,918.

While Adani Power will supply 1,496 MW (net) thermal power from the new 1,600 MW ultra-supercritical capacity, its sister concern Adani Green Energy Ltd will supply 5 GW (5,000 MW) solar power from the Khavda renewable energy park in the Kutch district of Gujarat. *—PTI*

Kohinoor Foods surges 20%; LT Foods jumps nearly 10%

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Rice stocks were in heavy demand on Monday, with Kohinoor Foods surging 20 per cent, after the government said the USD 950 per tonne minimum export price (MEP) on basmati rice has been removed.

Shares of Kohinoor Foods surged 20 per cent, LT Foods jumped 9.72 per cent, KRBL jumped 7.67 per cent, Chaman Lal Setia Exports climbed 5.92 per cent on the BSE.

The government on Friday said the USD 950 per tonne minimum export price on basmati rice has been removed.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the move will help boost exports and increase farmers' income.

- India's total exports of basmati rice stood at USD 4.8 billion in 2022-23 in terms of price, while in volume terms it was at 45.6 lakh tonne

"It has been decided to remove current minimum export price (MEP) of USD 950 MT for issuing Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCAC) for export of Basmati Rice," according to a communication from the Department of Commerce.

The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) was requested to take immediate action to implement the decision.

India's total exports of basmati rice stood at USD 4.8 billion in 2022-23 in terms of price, while in volume terms it was at 45.6 lakh tonne. *—PTI*

BMW Group introduces Retail.NEXT in India

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

German luxury car maker BMW on Monday introduced a new concept of selling vehicles in India allowing its dealers to sell products of its three brands -- BMW, MINI, and BMW Motorrad, one roof.

BMW Group India along with its dealers will jointly invest Rs 365.6 crore across India in 33 cities over 36 months on the new initiative -- Retail.NEXT, the company said in a statement.

"This initiative marks the beginning of a countrywide roll-out, as we expand our vision of an immersive luxury experience in India," BMW Group India President and Chief Executive Officer Vikram Pawah said.

Retail.NEXT dealerships are designed to revolutionise customer engagement by integrating 'phygital' innovations, where the physical meets the digital, he added.

Till date, the groups three brands have been retailed at separate outlets.

Under the new initiative, dealers who operate showrooms for two or all the three brands of the group can bring all under one roof.

BMW Group India announced the launch of the Retail.NEXT initiative with the opening of Bird Automotive's showroom in Gurugram. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

MERCEDES ROLLS OUT 2ND INDIAN PRODUCED MODEL

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz India on Monday expanded its Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) range in the country with the launch of the locally produced EQS 580 4MATIC.

India is the first country outside the US to start the local production of the seven-seater electric SUV.

EQS SUV 580 4MATIC is the second model, after the EQS sedan, to be locally produced at company's Pune-based manufacturing plant.

"This will be our sixth EV in India, and the second car to be locally produced in India. We are also proud that India becomes the first market out of the US to locally manufacture the EQS," Mercedes-Benz India Managing Director and CEO Santosh Iyer told PTI in an interaction.

The move to manufacture the product locally outlines the company's commitment to electrification and increasing product portfolio offering choices to customers, he added.

The move also supports the government's vision of Make-in-India, he said.

In the January-September period this year, Mercedes-Benz India has launched three new BEVs ' EQA, EQS SUV 580 and Mercedes-Maybach EQS 680 SUV. *—PTI*

'NOT UNPROFESSIONAL ANYMORE'

SEBI withdraws press release on work culture

NEW DELHI, 16 SEPT

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Monday withdrew its press release issued in September 4, which addressed claims of unprofessional work culture, stating that these concerns are "misplaced" and reaffirmed that employee-related issues will be managed internally.

The withdrawal came days after a protest by a large number of SEBI employees outside the regulator's headquarters on 5 September, a day after the press release. They had demanded the withdrawal of the statement and the resignation of SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch.

In a statement on Monday, SEBI acknowledged the critical role its employees have played over the past thirty-six years in shaping the Indian securities market into one of the most dynamic and well-regulated markets globally.

Decision to retract press release came after employees strongly condemned unauthorised dissemination of communications *PHOTO: PTI*

- In a statement on Monday, SEBI acknowledged the critical role its employees have played over the past thirty-six years in shaping the Indian securities market into one of the most dynamic markets globally

SEBI said it addresses employee-related matters through appropriate internal mechanisms.

Accordingly, the press release issued on 4 September has been withdrawn.

The decision to retract the press release came after employees strongly condemned the unauthorized dissemination of internal communications.

SEBI employees have reiterated their commitment to resolving concerns amicably through established internal channels, ensuring that such matters remain internal and managed within a time-bound framework.

After the publishing of a media report about the letter, SEBI responded with a press release, which stated such claims are "misplaced", which seemed to have irked the employees.

The regulator stated that some "external elements" had instigated its employees into believing that they shouldn't be held to high standards of performance and accountability, though, it did not provide specific details. *—PTI*

Lahiri finishes sixth in LIV Chicago

BOLINGBROOK, 16 SEPT

Anirban Lahiri carded a final round 3-under 67 to secure a tied-sixth finish, while Jon Rahm won his second tournament in three starts to claim the season-long individual championship at the LIV Golf Chicago. Lahiri had four birdies and a single bogey, giving him rounds of 67-71-67 for a 5-under total. His team, Crushers, grabbed the team title with other members being Bryson DeChambeau, Paul Casey and David Howell III. The 29-year-old Spanish star Rahm shot a bogey-free 4-under 66 at Bolingbrook Golf Club to hold off Torque GC Captain Joaquin Niemann to win both LIV Golf Chicago and the individual title here on Sunday. Niemann and Fireballs GC Captain Sergio Garcia tied for second, three shots back. *—PTI*

Theegala finishes 7th as Kizzire wins Procore C'ship

NAPA, 16 SEPT

Indian-American golfer Sahith Theegala was unable to find the necessary extra zip on the final day and shot an even par 72 for a tied seventh-place finish at the Procore Championship here, the FedExCup Fall season's opening event. Theegala, the winner last year, closed with a 72 to tie for fifth at 12-under 276. He shot 69-66-69-72 and was 12-under 276 and eight shots behind the winner, Patton Kizzire. Kizzire, meanwhile, returned to the winner's circle after a long gap, shooting a scrambling 2-under 70 for a tournament-record, five-stroke victory. Kizzire had gone 176 events without a victory after winning events in Mexico and Hawaii in a two-month span in late 2017 and early 2018. He also gets spots in the Masters and PGA Championship and The Sentry at Kapalua. *—PTI*

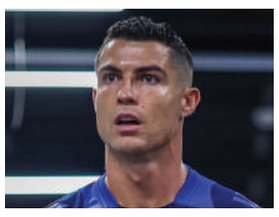


PHOTO: X

Ronaldo misses Al-Nassr's debut in Elite tournament

RIYADH, 16 SEPT

Cristiano Ronaldo has a virus and did not travel to Iraq with Al-Nassr for Monday's AFC Champions League Elite debut match at Al-Shorta. Al-Nassr, Ronaldo's Saudi Arabian club, said that the Portugal forward "wasn't feeling well" and "was diagnosed with a viral infection," adding that the team physician confirmed he needs to rest. Playing for Portugal in the Nations League, Ronaldo recently scored against both Croatia and Scotland to take his men's-record tally of international goals to 132. Ronaldo won five UEFA Champions Leagues but has yet to win a major trophy with Al-Nassr. It's the first edition of the Elite version, which replaced the AFC Champions League as Asia's top club tournament. *—AP*

Dani Olmo to miss 4 to 5 weeks with hamstring injury

BARCELONA, 16 SEPT

Barcelona got some bad news a day after extending its perfect start to the season, with winger Dani Olmo being diagnosed with a leg injury that will sideline him for four to five weeks. The club said tests conducted Monday showed he sustained a right hamstring injury in the second half of the 4-1 win at Catalan rival Girona in the Spanish league on Sunday. Olmo had to be replaced in the 61st minute, less than 15 minutes after he had scored the team's third goal in the match. The Spain international was signed from Leipzig this season and had been a crucial piece for coach Hansi Flick in the team's perfect start. Barcelona has won its first five games in the Spanish league, which it leads by four points ahead of Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid and Villarreal. *—AP*

India enters ACT final after 4-1 victory over Korea

Skipper Harmanpreet scored twice; Ready to face China

HULUNBUIR, 16 SEPT

Indian players in action during the match against Korea in Hulunbuir on Monday *PHOTO: X/@THEHOCKEYINDIA*

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final here on Monday.

India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarmanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from through Yang Jihun (33rd)'s penalty corner conversion. India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final. Earlier in the day, China defeated Pakistan 2-0 via shoot-out in the first semifinal after the two teams finished 1-1 at the end of regulation 60 minutes.

In the previous league stage encounter between the two finalists, India prevailed 3-0. Pakistan and Korea will face off in the third place classification match which will also be played on Tuesday.

Meanwhile in the fifth-sixth place classification match, Japan beat Malaysia 4-2 in shoot-out following a 4-4 stalemate in normal time. In the second semifinal as expected, the Indians started on the offensive and tested the Korean defence with persistent attacks from the word go.

The Koreans, on the other hand, were contend to sit back and defend and rely on sporadic counter attacks. Abhishek came tantalisingly close to handing India the lead in the fourth minute but his reverse hit was brilliantly saved by Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehan.

The Indian made promising build ups and penetrated the Korean circle on consistent basis in the first quarter. India's attacking intent finally paid of in the 13th minute when Uttam positioned himself at the right place at the right time to tap in Araijeet Singh Hundal's supply from the right.

Four minutes into the second quarter, India secured their first penalty corner and Harmanpreet scored his sixth goal of the tournament to hand his side a 2-0 lead. At the stroke of half-time, custodian Suraj Karkera came out of his line to save an effort from the opposition player.

A brilliant scoop from Sumit from the right finds Jarmanpreet just outside the circle on the left flank and the latter neatly collected the ball and took a step or two to get inside the circle and slap the ball into the Korean goal to extend India's lead. *—PTI*

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Indian men crush Azerbaijan; Women beat Kazakhstan

BUDAPEST, 16 SEPT

Vaishali Rameshbabu *PHOTO: PTI*

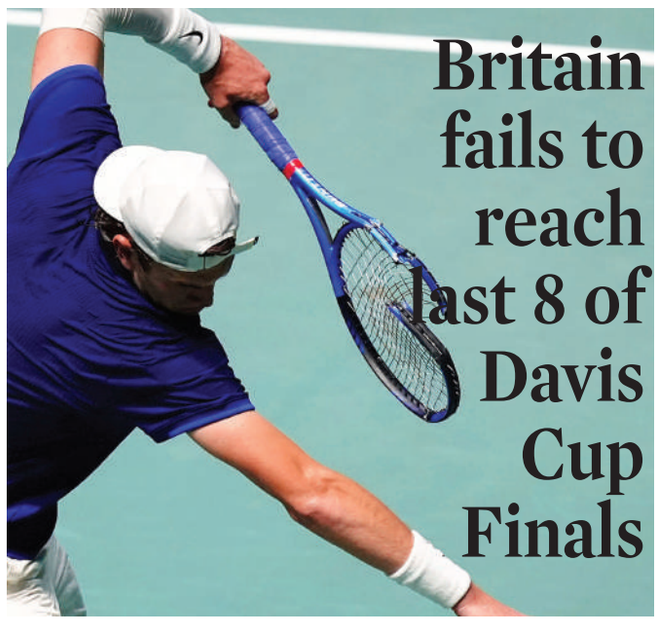
Backed by the two in-form stars in World Championship challenger D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi, the Indian men scored a 3-1 victory over Azerbaijan in the fifth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

It seems like Gukesh and Arjun can do nothing wrong in this Olympiad as they overpowered Aydin Sulemanli and Rauf Mamedov respectively with their white pieces in quick time.

Praggnanandhaa played another draw on board two to only ensure an Indian victory while Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in a marathon game to complete the triumph. After scoring the fifth victory on the trot, the Indian men maintained a clean slate on ten points and they were joined by Vietnam who continued with their impressive show and downed Poland 2.5-1.5.

The other two teams that joined the leaders' pack were China and Hungary who scored identical 2.5-1.5 victories over Spain and Ukraine respectively. With six rounds still to come in the biggest chess event, Magnus Carlsen's Norway and Iran are the only two teams sharing the fifth spot on 9 points apiece. Norway defeated a talented Turkey team by a 3-1 margin while Iran made most of the opportunities to down Canada 3.5-0.5.

In the women's section, Grandmaster D Harika suffered a shock defeat to give Kazakhstan an early lead. Better for most of the game, Harika misplayed after many pundits believed her position to be winning against Bibisara Assaubayeva. On the fourth board Vantika Agarwal yet again played the anchor and won a clean game with white pieces against Alua Nurman while Xeniya Balabayeva split the point with Divya Deshmukh. With the scores tied at 2-2 it was Vaishali's turn to come up triumphs for the team and she outwitted Meruert Kamalidenova. Team India joined Armenia and Mongolia in the lead on ten points. Armenia halted the Chinese party for now handing them a 2.5-1.5 defeat while Mongolia proved superior to United States with a similar score. *—PTI*



Britain fails to reach last 8 of Davis Cup Finals

Britain's Jack Draper smashes his racket during a Davis Cup group stage finals match against Canada's Felix Auger Aliassime *PHOTO: PTI*

MANCHESTER, 16 SEPT

Britain failed to qualify for the last eight of the Davis Cup Finals after losing to Canada 2-1 in its last group-stage tie, while Novak Djokovic helped Serbia secure a place in next year's qualifiers.

The British needed a 3-0 win against the Canadians in Manchester, but Dan Evans lost 6-0, 7-5 to Denis Shapovalov to end Britain's hopes in the opening match in front of a crowd of 15,700 at the AO Arena, the biggest for a Davis Cup tie on British soil, according to organizers.

Felix Auger-Aliassime then defeated Jack Draper 7-6 (8), 7-5 to seal Canada's victory and first place in Group D. England won the final doubles match. Evans hinted this may have been his last Davis Cup appearance.

"I've probably had my fair share now. It could be and probably will be (the end)," he said. "I need to have a think. If I don't feel capable of playing, I won't come back." Canada and Argentina advanced from Group D. Finland was the other team eliminated.

Four groups have been playing in four cities to qualify for the eight-team Finals in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two in each four-team group advance. In Valencia, Spain defeated Australia 2-1 to win Group B with both having already qualified. France and the Czech Republic were eliminated.

The decisive win came with Wesley Koolhof and Botic van de Zandschulp defeating Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (6), 7-5. *—AP*

MCLAREN BEHIND BOTH F1 DRIVERS AS PIASTRI OUTSHINES NORRIS

LONDON, 16 SEPT

McLaren's team principal, Andrea Stella, says they will continue to review the arrangement between their drivers after Oscar Piastri underlined his talent with a thrilling Azerbaijan Grand Prix victory. McLaren came into the weekend fielding questions over team orders after Piastri's opportunistic first-lap move in Monza a fortnight ago resulted in title-chasing Lando Norris losing two positions.

They decided the team would favour Norris for the remainder of the season but it was Piastri on the top step of the podium in Baku as the British driver finished fourth, having started from 15th after a disaster in qualifying. Piastri's second F1 win, brilliantly secured over Charles Leclerc thanks to a daring overtake and dogged defence, actually came in part thanks to Norris working to help his teammate stay ahead of Red Bull's Sergio Pérez during the pit-stop phase.

Stella is aware of the headache that having two such talented drivers can cause but stressed that the position of favouring Norris is not a hard and fast rule. "We have two No 1 drivers effectively and that means that we approach things first of all in the interests of the team," Stella said.

Norris managed to cut the gap on leader Verstappen by three points to 59.

—Courtesy, The Guardian

RoKo & Co sweat it out in 3rd training session in Chennai

CHENNAI, 16 SEPT

Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah during the practice session *PHOTO: X/@BCCI*

Rohit Sharma and Co had another extensive training session in the build up to the first Test against Bangladesh with all 16 squad members turning for practice at the Chepauk here on Monday.

After a day off, the India squad members took part in their third training session since their arrival here last week. The first Test begins on Thursday. As it is often the case, Virat Kohli was among the first set of batters to hit the nets. In the adjacent net was southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal as both him and Kohli faced Jasprit Bumrah and home hero R Ashwin.

The next set of batters included skipper Rohit, Shubman Gill and Sarfaraz Khan, the last named player arriving here after taking part in the second round Duleep Trophy match in Anantapur.

The captain focussed on playing spinners keeping Bangladesh's slow bowling attack in mind. Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and pacer Mohammed Siraj too faced local bowlers and significant amount of throwdowns.

The practice pitch at the main square offered a decent amount of bounce. India will have two more practice sessions scheduled before the series opener against Bangladesh, who are riding on the confidence of their series sweep in Pakistan.

Most players in the playing eleven select themselves. The Chennai surface usually favour the spinners and there is likelihood of India going into the game with three spinners and two pacers. *—PTI*

Ravichandran Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja during a training session ahead of the first Test match against Bangladesh, at MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Sakshi, Aman, Geeta announce Wrestling CSL

NEW DELHI, 16 SEP

The national federation has refused to sanction the Wrestling Champions Super League initiative *PHOTO: PTI*

- Sakshi has, however, distanced herself from the latter two after they took the political plunge by joining Congress ahead of next month's Haryana Assembly elections

Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Aman Sehrawat, along with former world championship bronze-winner Geeta Phogat, on Monday announced that they would soon launch a Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL) for the country's budding grapplers but the national federation has refused to sanction the initiative.

Sakshi, along with Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, had spearheaded the wrestlers' protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment. She has, however, distanced herself from the latter two after they took the political plunge by joining Congress ahead of next month's Haryana Assembly elections.

She won the 58kg bronze in 2016 Rio Olympics, and announced the project with Phogat, a 55kg bronze winner in 2012 World Championships through their social media handles. The two, while announcing that they had Paris Games bronze-winner Aman on board, did not provide any details.

Phogat told PTI that she is hopeful of support from the federation and the government. "Sakshi and I have been planning this League for long. Soon it will take a final shape. We have not yet spoken to the WFI but it would be great if WFI and government support us. It will be the first league that will be operated only by the players," Phogat said.

"There will be international wrestlers, and coaches involved, so it should help our junior wrestlers. They will get good exposure." The WFI said it would not give its sanction to the league. Asked if there will be prize money involved, and about the format and venue for the event, Phogat said, "You will have to wait a bit to know all this. We will share the details very soon."

Sakshi, who retired from wrestling after Sharan Singh's close aide Sanjay Singh became WFI head, said she hopes to give back to the sport through this initiative. *—PTI*

Yamal scores twice as Barcelona beat Girona 4-1

MADRID, 15 SEPT

With two goals in less than 10 minutes, Lamine Yamal led Barcelona to its fifth straight victory at the start of the Spanish league season.

The teenager's double, plus second-half goals by Dani Olmo and Pedri, gave Barcelona a commanding 4-1 win at Catalan rival Girona on Sunday, keeping its lead over Real Madrid at four points. Madrid won at Real Sociedad on Saturday with goals from Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior. Villarreal was the other team four points back after winning 2-1 at Mallorca on Saturday.

Yamal's goals on Sunday were his second and third of the season. The 17-year-old Spain international opened the scoring after stealing the ball from a defender and sending a close-range shot into the net in the 30th minute. He scored again in the 37th after picking up a loose ball inside the area.

Olmo's third goal since joining Barcelona this season came from a tight angle in the 47th, and Pedri sealed the easy victory with a goal from inside the area in the 64th. Cristhian Stuani scored Girona's lone goal in the 80th.

The hosts were initially awarded a penalty kick for a handball inside the area just before halftime, with Barcelona leading 2-0, but the call was reversed by video review. Barcelona played with 10 men from the 87th after Ferran Torres was sent off for a hard foul on an opponent. *—AP*

Lamine Yamal
PHOTO: X@AARONBARBOZA_